

**Bergen Community College
Department of History and Geography**

**HISTORY 131:
LATIN AMERICA SINCE INDEPENDENCE**

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Credits/Hours: 3 credits / 3 hours

General Education Course: Yes

Prerequisites: None

Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday, 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11a.m-1 p.m. in A332



This course will provide an overview of nineteenth and twentieth century Latin American history. The emphasis will be on analyzing the region through portraits

of some of its larger or most influential countries, including Brazil, Chile Mexico, Argentina, Cuba, Peru and Colombia.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify major periods and figures in Latin America since 1821.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the narrative framework and factual basis of Latin American history since 1821.
3. Identify and analyze the important political, economic, social, intellectual and religious forces that shaped the above period.
4. Summarize and interpret the continuity and change that occurs in Latin America from 1821 until the present.
5. Demonstrate the ability to develop a thesis and support it with historical evidence both in writing and orally.
6. Demonstrate basic research skills by locating and using source materials.
7. Summarize, paraphrase and quote historical information in properly cited written analyses.
8. Demonstrate the ability to state and support an interpretation of historical issues concisely, coherently and logically.

Grades Will Be Based on the Following Rubric

First essay: 25%
Second essay: 25%
Third Essay: 25%
Final take home exam: 25%

As a general education course, students must demonstrate an ability to write proficiently in order to receive credit. Hence, four essays and a take home final exam will be assigned. Students must submit three of the four essay options. Those who do all five will have their lowest grade dropped. Last but not least, class participation is roundly encouraged. Those who participate on a regular basis and do so in a constructive manner will gain up to five points on their final mark.

Electronic Devices

The use of cell phones is not permitted once class begins. Leaving a cell phone on, answering an incoming call or sending text messages will result in a punishment to be decided upon by the student and professor.

Students With Disabilities

Students who require accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) can request these services from the Office of Specialized Services. To learn more about how to apply for services, please visit: <http://www.bergen.edu/oss>.

Academic Dishonesty

Finally, in accordance with school policy, academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. Students must submit their own work and properly credit all outside sources. Essays bearing the marks of plagiarism will receive a grade of 0.

Class Calendar:

Part I: Early State Formation, 1822-1875

January 21: A Brief Empire in Mexico and War with the United States

January 26: The Reform War and Foreign Occupation

January 28: Brazil's Slave Society

February 2: The Brazilian Empire

February 4: Juan Manuel de Rosas, Argentina's Gaucho *Caudillo*

February 9: *Unitarios* and *Federales*

Part I Reading List:

Books:

Biography of Power by Enrique Krauze*

Mexico: What Everyone Needs to Know by Roderic Ai Camp

Order and Progress by Gilberto Freyre

The Biography of Mahommah Gardo Baquaqua edited by Robin Law and Paul Lovejoy

Facundo or Civilization and Barbarism by Domingo Sarmiento*

The Emergence of Latin America in the Nineteenth Century by David Bushnell and Neill Macaulay

Readings on Latin America and its People: Volume II Since 1800 edited by Cheryl Martin and Mark Wasserman

Part II: Modernization and U.S. Intervention, 1876-1933

February 11: Porfirio Díaz: Hero of the Americas

First Essay Option Due

February 16: The Mexican Revolution

February 18: Cuba Under the Platt Amendment

February 23: Civilizing the Dominican Republic

February 25: The Occupation of Haiti

Part II Reading List:

Books:

Biography of Power by Enrique Krauze*

Revolutionary Mexico by John Mason Hart

Mexico Since Independence edited by Leslie Bethell

The Banana Wars by Lester Langley

Cuba: A Short History edited by Leslie Bethell

Haitian History: New Perspectives edited by Alyssa Goldstein Sepinwall

Newspaper and Magazine Articles:

“President Díaz: Hero of the Americas,” by James Creelman, *Pearson’s Magazine*, March 1908

“An Amendment’s End,” *Time Magazine*, June 11, 1934

Part III: Four Solutions to Poverty From Above: 1934-1959

March 2: Lázaro Cárdenas, *ejidos* and the Oil Industry

Second Essay Option Due

March 4: Jorge Eliécer Gaitán’s Positivist Solution to Poverty in Colombia

March 9: Juan and Evita Perón’s Fascist Solution to Poverty in Argentina

March 11: Getúlio Vargas, Father of Brazil’s Poor

March 23: Fidel Castro and the *barbudos* topple a military dictator

March 25: The Cuban Communist Solution to Poverty

Part III Reading List:

Books:

Biography of Power by Enrique Krauze*

Argentina Since Independence edited by Leslie Bethell

Cuba: A Short History edited by Leslie Bethell

The Assassination of Gaitán by Herbert Braun

The Motorcycle Diaries by Ernesto Guevara

The Cuban Missile Crisis by Alice George

Newspaper and Magazine Articles:

“Love in Power,” *Time*, May 21, 1951.

“The Petrified Forest,” *Time*, October 8, 1965.

“What Happened to Argentina?” by Edward Glaeser, *New York Times*, October 6, 2009

Part IV: Latin American Armies vs. Revolutionaries 1960-1993

March 30: Salvador Allende’s Democratic Path to Socialism

Third Essay Option Due

April 1: The Pinochet Regime in Chile

April 6: Argentina’s Dirty War

April 8: Operation Condor

April 13: Peru’s Shining Path

April 15: Colombia’s FARC and ELN

Part IV: Reading List:

Books:

Remembering Pinochet’s Chile by Steve Stern

Politics in Brazil, 1930-1964 by Thomas Skidmore

Predatory States by J. Patrice McSherry

Newspaper and Magazine Articles:

“Open Letter from a Writer to the Military Junta,” by Rodolfo Walsh, March 24, 1977

“Children of the Dirty War,” by Francisco Goldman, *The New Yorker*, March 19, 2012

“Daughter of ‘Dirty War’ Raised by Man Who Killed her Parents,” by Alexei Barrionuevo, October 8, 2011

Part V: Good and Bad News: 1993 to the Present

April 20: The Medellín and Cali Cartels

Fourth Essay Option Due

April 22: Drug Gangs in Brazil, Mexico and Central America

April 27: Conditional Cash Transfers

April 29: Latin America’s Rising Middle Class

May 4: Immigration

May 6: Reasons for Optimism

May 11: **Final Exam Due**

Part V Reading List:

Books:

The Heart that Bleeds by Alma Guillermoprieto

Looking for History by Alma Guillermoprieto*

Newspaper and Magazine Articles:

“The Cali Cartel: New Kings of Coke,” *Time*, July 1, 1991

“A Payoff Out of Poverty,” by Tina Rosenberg, *The New York Times Magazine*, December 19, 2008

“Gangland” by Jon Lee Anderson, *The New Yorker*, October 5, 2009

“Societies on the Move,” *The Economist*, September 9, 2010

“In the Name of the Law,” by William Finnegan, *The New Yorker*, October 18, 2010

“To Beat Back Poverty, Pay the Poor” by Tina Rosenberg, *The New York Times*, January 3, 2011.

“The Tormented Isthmus,” *The Economist*, August 14, 2011

“A City Rises, Along With its Hopes,” by Michael Kimmelman, *The New York Times*, May 18, 2012

“Cocaine Incorporated,” by Patrick Radden Keefe, *The New York Times Magazine*, June 15, 2012

“Helping Brazil’s Poor Heal at Home,” by David Bornstein, December 11, 2013

“After Years in Solitary, An Austere Life for Uruguay’s President,” by Simón Romero, *New York Times*, January 4, 2013

“The Hunt for El Chapo,” by Patrick Radden Keefe, *The New Yorker*, May 5, 2014

“A Boon for the Women of Ecuador,” by Ruxandra Guidi, *The New York Times*, November 4, 2014

“Colombia’s Data Driven Fight Against Crime,” by Tina Rosemberg, *The New York Times*, November 20, 2014